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Safely Delivering the U.S. Department of Energy's Vision for the East Tennessee Technology Park Mission

For Immediate Release

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DOE's Waste Management Facility Marks 10 Years of Operation

Oak Ridge, Tenn., June 13, 2012 – After 10 years of operation, the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) has safely dispositioned 1.45 million tons of waste from cleanup projects across the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Reservation.

EMWMF, which is located near the Y-12 National Security Complex, began operating on May 28, 2002. This state-of-the-art, engineered disposal facility has a capacity of 2.18 million cubic yards. It accepts a variety of wastes, including soil, sludge, sediments, vegetation, personal protective equipment, scrap equipment, and building demolition debris.

Much of the building debris has come from demolition of several facilities at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) as part of DOE transition of the site to a private-sector industrial park. Some of the facilities demolished include the former gaseous diffusion buildings K-29, K-33, and the largest building in the DOE Complex—the K-25 Building. Demolition continues on the formerly mile-long K-25 Building, and most of the debris will be shipped to EMWMF. The facility is linked to ETTP by an eight-mile haul road that was completed in 2006, keeping waste shipments off public roadways.

“Having the facility on the Reservation has allowed DOE to clean up the environment at tremendous savings to taxpayers,” said Jeff Grindstaff, EMWMF Operations Manager for URS | CH2M Oak Ridge LLC (UCOR), which manages the facility. “Shipping this waste off site would be very expensive and time-consuming, and it would also have required the material to travel on public roadways.”

Disposal at EMWMF has helped DOE avoid approximately \$1.35 billion in off-site disposal costs, Grindstaff pointed out.

Safety has been a hallmark of EMWMF operations during the past 10 years. Personnel at the facility have experienced no lost workday injuries and no environmental notices of violation since operations began.

“The project’s safety and compliance records set high standards that are indicative of a dedicated, focused work force,” said Leo Sain, UCOR President and Project Manager. “Working 10 years without a lost workday injury is truly a remarkable achievement.”

While approximately 40-percent capacity still exists at EMWMF, DOE is already exploring future alternatives for waste disposition when EMWMF reaches full capacity, such as building a new facility on the Reservation.

UCOR is DOE's Environmental Management cleanup contractor at the Oak Ridge Reservation. The URS-led team is responsible for deactivation and demolition of the K-25 facility at ETTP, as well as other specific aspects of work at ETTP, the Y-12 National Security Complex, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.



Photo caption: Aerial photo of EMWMF, taken May 25, 2012.

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